CONSIDERATIONS

Upon the BILL now depending in PARLIAMENT;

INTITULED,

An Act to prevent the Growth of Schiſm, &c.

I. MAY not this Bill have a very ill Effect upon our Conſtitution both in CHURCH and STATE, by placing a ſupream Juriſdiction in *Eccleſiaſtical Courts* or *Quarter-Seſſions*: from whence ſhall be no Appeal. When a Breach is made in our Conſtitutions, who knows how far the Inundation may reach?

II. Can there be a Security that the Quarter-Seſſions and Eccleſiaſtical Courts ſhall always be of the ſame Sentiments with our preſent Eſtabliſhment?

III. May not the preſent CHURCH of *England* be proſecuted by this Law, if our Adminiſtration ſhould ever fall into the Hands of ſuch as ſhall account the preſent Church *Schiſmatical*?

IV. ARE there not Modern Inſtances, as well as Ancient, where Party-Laws have been uſed againſt the Intereſt of thoſe who made them?

V. Can any Man, though never ſo Orthodox, be ſafe from falſe and malicious Proſecutions, where the Proſecutors ſhall be both Judge and Jury, and the Sufferers be allowed no Appeal?

VI. Will not the Peerage of *Great Britain* be leſſened, when the Subject ſhall be prevented making any Appeal to them?

VII. Will not *Magna Charta*, which ſecures unto *Lords* and *Commons* a Right to be tried by their Peers, even in the moſt *Criminal Caſes*, and hath coſt our Anceſtors ſo much, and was ſo many Ages a procuring, be undermined by this Bill, allowing no Appeal, but dignifying with a ſupream Power Eccleſiaſtical Courts and Quarter-Seſſions?

VIII. Doth not this Bill, in effect, deliver the *Commoners* of *South Britain*, their Eſtates, Liberties and Poſterities into the unmerciful and mercinary Hands of *Apparitors*, *Informers*, &c.

IX. Have not the Miſchiefs which have attended Eccleſiaſtical Severities in divers Countries, and Ages, been innumerable?

X. Are not the great Cruelties committed by the *Popiſh Inquiſitions* chiefly owing to the Supremacy of their Juriſdiction?

XI. Doth not this Bill run directly oppoſite to the QUEEN's frequent Advice to the Parliament, *To uſe their Endeavours to allay all Party-Rage among Her Subjects?*

XII. Will not this Bill make a Breach upon that great Chriſtian Duty of *CHARITY*, by introducing ſuch a horrid Proſecution, as will ſtrip many Poor old decriped Men and Women of their Subſiſtence, and may ſtifle ſome in naſty Goals?

XIII. Will not this greatly increaſe the Pariſh-Rates for the Poor, to provide for thoſe diſcarded Tutors; with many helpleſs Orphans, who are now provided for by *Diſſenters*, without Charge to any Pariſh?

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XIV. Will not this Bill diſtreſs many poor French Refugees, *&c.* who now provide Bread for themſelves and their Families by Teaching their Mother-Tongue?

XV. Will not this diſcourage Trade, when learning the Modern Languages uſed in it ſhall be obſtructed; and diſcourage Foreigners from reſiding with us, and frighten many of our Induſtrious Manufacturers, and tranſlate their Trades into Foreign Countries, and Decreaſe ours, as well as Increaſe our deſtituted Poor?

XVI. May not this Bill which ſhall diſcourage the *Diſſenters* Education, increaſe the *Black-Guard* which abound in our Streets, and are running into all the Evils that Neceſſity and Ignorance can hurry them to, for want of a due Education?

XVII. Will not this Bill Exclude Servants from hearing our Children read the *Holy Scriptures* in Engliſh, or in any other Language; or any of us to teach our Servants to read them?

XVIII. Can ſuch Children that ſhall be prevented from Learning the *Holy Scriptures*, be fit Members of any Church, but that which ſaith, *Ignorance is the Mother of Devotion?*

XIX. Was not Reading the *Holy Scriptures* in our Mother Tongue, a Fundamental Principle of the *Reformation*, without regarding who taught them to Read?

XX. The Eccleſiaſtical Courts having Power to cite any Perſons and Examine them, having Eccleſiaſtical Juriſdiction reſerved over them; if they Judge them Contumatious? Whether in Effect, this may not have all the Evil Conſequences which was in the Oath *Ex Officio*, that for its Oppreſſion, was Repealed by Act of Parliament?

XXI. Will not the Severity of ſuch a Law, be Reaſon ſufficient for the *Diſſenters*, not to truſt their tender Children in the hands of Men of ſuch Unmerciful Principles?